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to be useful, must be minute. I therefore suggest that, as soon as the member returns to his place, he may assure his fellow-townsmen that Government are quite as anxious as they are to put towns like these on a proper basis and to improve them, and the member may press the question of taking action under the power already vested in the Committee to impose a house-tax. I would suggest to the member to advise his fellow-townsmen on these lines.

102. Development of the Srimulapuram harbour.

Mr. D. Francis urged that the Srimulapuram harbour at Cape Comorin be further developed. The existing ports of Travancore were available for shipping only during six months of the year; and hence commerce by sea was entirely at a standstill during the remaining period, that is, when the south-west monsoon prevailed. The importance of a place on the sea-board which possessed a fine natural harbour protected from both the monsoons must therefore be necessarily great. That advantage they had in the existence of the Srimulapuram harbour. He therefore requested that Government take up the matter of developing the harbour.

Dewan's reply.—The Srimulapuram harbour is a recognised sea-port. A staff of one petty-officer and 3 peons is now maintained there for excise purposes. Messrs. Parry and Co. are proposing to export certain articles from the port, and have requested Government to improve certain roads, and Government are taking action accordingly. The port can only be developed gradually. No large outlay can now be made on it.

ERANIEL TALUK.

103. Restoration of tanks.

Mr. Raman Tampi requested that rain-fed and other irrigation tanks in the taluk be completely restored. In case any tank was to be done away with, and the land auctioned, he said that the opinion of the ryots concerned might be taken and considered.

Dewan's reply.—On the report of the Special Revenue Officer about each tank, whether it should be maintained or its bed sold, orders will be passed. It will not be possible to consult the ryots in each case before passing orders, as requested by the member. The people of each locality had better see the Revenue Officer and put before him what they have to say.

104. Construction of the Irattakara caul.

The same member also requested that the Irattakara caul be soon constructed.

Dewan's reply.—This work has been sanctioned. But the construction of it is delayed, as proposals for the

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extension of the caul are under the consideration of Government.

105. Settlement assessment.

Mr. Easwaran Tampi said that the tax on lands in the Colachal Adhigarom was fixed at the recent settlement in contravention of Royal *Neets* and precedents and he requested that the unauthorised enhancements be reduced. The member said that he could bring the *Neet* on which he relied in making the representation.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to all settlement matters, the parties aggrieved must prefer appeals in accordance with the rules laid down for their guidance. As, however, the member says that the *Neet* has not been followed in assessing the tax on the lands in question, and as he undertakes to produce the original *Neet*, I would ask the member to see the Settlement Dewan Peishkar with the *Neet* and to represent his case to him. If it is found that the claim for a reduction of tax is a reasonable one, Government will enquire into the matter and dispose of it. But I must say at once that a place like this is not the proper place for going into questions of this kind.

106. Anchal office at Tiruvancode.

Mr. Ghulamytheen Pillai requested that the village anchal office at Tiruvancode be raised to a delivery office.

Dewan's reply.—The request made by the member is under enquiry.

KALKULAM TALUK.

107. Enquiry into diseases at Padmanabhapuram.

Mr. P. S. Maruthanayagom Pillai requested that an expert be appointed to enquire into the causes of the prevalence of malarial fever, diarrhœa, &c., within the fort at Padmanabhapuram, and to suggest remedial measures for adoption by Government.

Dewan's reply.—The Sanitary Commissioner will be asked to enquire into the causes of the diseases now said to prevail.

VILAVANKOD TALUK.

108. Maintenance of irrigation works.

Mr. M. Narayana Kurup said that there were over 500 rain-fed tanks used for irrigation purposes and requested that they be properly maintained.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion of the member is noted.

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